

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 2, 2005, Claims 1-30 remain rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Kittross et al. (U.S. Patent 6,681,351, "Kittross").

In response to the rejection, Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly distinguish over Kittross. In particular, Applicants have amended each of the independent claims to indicate that the client devices are computers and are coupled to a server by way of a network. As will be set forth in more detail below, Kittross discloses elements of a general purpose computer. Applicants have further amended each independent claim to indicate that the system under test comprises a programmable logic circuit which is configured according to configuration data of a test job coupled to the system under test. Kittross fails to disclose or suggest configuring a programmable logic device. Support for the amendments may be found at least in Figs. 1 and 2 and paragraphs [0018]-[0020].

It is suggested in the Office Action that the configuration data for programmable logic is disclosed by Fig. 6 of Kittross, which shows an editor window 100 prompting a user to enter values of a particular instance of a test procedure. However, the values for the test procedure of Kittross relate to test vectors, such as a voltage supply (Col. 11, lines 25-41), and not configuration data for programmable logic as claimed by Applicants. That is, Applicants' claim a programmable logic circuit which receives configuration data to implement a circuit design, as is well known in the art. In contrast to Kittross, Applicants separately claim both test vectors and configuration data for a programmable logic circuit implemented in programmable logic.

It is further suggested in the Office Action that a client-server arrangement is disclosed in col. 13, lines 60-67 and Fig. 1 of Kittross. However, col. 13, lines 60-67, describes elements of a single computer. That is, the I/O device, memory and processor are a part of a general purpose computer. While the portions of the general purpose computer may be accessible as a part of a distributed computing system (e.g. where the memory may be part of a network server), a single general purpose

computer having certain elements which may be distributed is not a client-server arrangement as claimed.

Similarly in response to the suggestion that memory 22 may comprise a network server, memory 22 itself is not a client device or a server, but is only a memory accessible by the general purpose computer. It is further suggested that the input output devices 24 of Kittross may comprise the client devices, while the memory 22 may comprise the servers. However, unlike the client devices as claimed in each of the independent Claims 1, 16, 21, and 26, for example, there is no teaching or suggestion that the input/output devices of Kittross store a test job. Rather, the memory 22 of Kittross stores the test job.

Finally, col. 14, lines 1-15, which is also cited in the Office Action, is directed to the processor 26. The processor 26 is a part of the same general purpose computer for testing devices. While Kittross discloses a processor 26 which may be implemented in a variety of arrangements to enable the testing of multiple devices, processor 26 is not a server, but rather a part of the general purpose computer. Applicants will address each claim separately in order to address each element of the claims which is not disclosed by Kittross, including claims having multiple client computers and claims having multiple servers.

#### Claim 1

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a client-server verification system comprising a client computer and a server. Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to recite a client computer storing a test job for testing the design of "a programmable logic circuit," where the test job has configuration data for the programmable logic circuit. Applicants have further amended Claim 1 to indicate that a server is coupled to the client computer by way of a network. Finally, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to indicate that the system under test comprises the programmable logic circuit which is configured with a circuit design implemented according to the configuration data. In addition to failing to disclose the arrangement of the client computer and server, Kittross fails to disclose or suggest a programmable logic circuit, as set forth in the amended claim. Applicants submit that independent Claim 1 as amended, and its

dependent Claims 2-5, clearly distinguish over Kittross, and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims.

Claim 6

Independent Claim 6 is also directed to a client-server verification system comprising a client computer and a server. Because Claim 6 also comprises a client computer and a server, and configuration data for a programmable logic circuit as claimed in Claim 1, Applicants believe that Claim 6 is also allowable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1. However, Applicants further note that Claim 6 recites "a plurality of client computers." Kittross fails to disclose or suggest a plurality of client computers in a client-server verification system. While the elements of the test system of Kittross relate to a general purpose computer, there is no teaching or suggestion in Kittross of a plurality of client computers coupled to a server. Applicants submit that independent Claim 6 as amended, and its dependent Claims 7-10, clearly distinguish over Kittross, and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims.

Claim 11

Independent Claim 11 is also directed to a client-server verification system having a plurality of client computers, and further comprises a job distribution server and a server coupled to the plurality of client computers by way of the job distribution server and the system under test. In addition to failing to disclose or suggest a programmable logic circuit as claimed, Kittross fails to disclose or suggest both a job distribution server and a separate server coupled to the system under test. Applicants submit that independent Claim 11 as amended, and its dependent Claims 12-15, also clearly distinguish over Kittross, and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims.

Claim 16

Independent Claim 16 is directed to a method of verifying a semiconductor design by way of a server. Applicants claim a step of storing a test job having test vectors and configuration data for a circuit implemented in programmable logic.

Applicants further claim a step of configuring the system under test having a circuit implemented in programmable logic. For the same reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Kittross fails to disclose or suggest storing configuration data for a programmable logic circuit, or reconfiguring a programmable logic circuit. Applicants submit that independent Claim 16 as amended, and its dependent Claims 17-20, also clearly distinguish over Kittross, and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims.

Claim 21

Independent Claim 21 is also directed to a method of verifying a semiconductor design by way of a server. Claim 21 includes a step of coupling a plurality of client computers to a test server, each client computer "storing a test job for testing the design of a programmable logic circuit, said test job having test vectors and configuration data for said programmable logic circuit." Further, Applicants claim a step of reconfiguring a programmable logic circuit of a system under test with a circuit design according to the configuration data of the test job. For the same reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Kittross fails to disclose or suggest configuration data for a programmable logic circuit or reconfiguring a programmable logic circuit as claimed. Applicants submit that independent Claim 21 as amended, and its dependent Claims 22-25, also clearly distinguish over Kittross, and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims.

Claim 26

Finally, independent Claim 26 is directed to a method of verifying a semiconductor design by way of a server. In addition to failing to disclose steps of (i) coupling a plurality of client computers to a job distribution server; and (ii) reconfiguring a programmable logic circuit, Applicants respectfully submit that Kittross fails to disclose the step of "coupling said job distribution server to a plurality of servers, each said server coupling predetermined test vectors to a system under test of a plurality of systems under test." That is, Kittross clearly fails to disclose a job distribution server and a separate server, and in particular, a plurality of servers other than the job

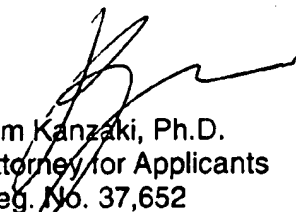
distribution server as claimed. Applicants submit that independent Claim 26 as amended, and its dependent Claims 27-30, also clearly distinguish over Kittross, and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims.

CONCLUSION

All claims should be now be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, the applicants' attorney can be reached at Tel: 408-879-6149 (Pacific Standard Time).

Respectfully submitted,

  
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*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on December 29, 2005.*

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